

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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R 172104Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3635

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3945

1. SUMMARY: DEATH OF AN ARMY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER IN TALCA (SOUTH-CENTRAL CHILE) JUNE 5, ALLEGEDLY AT HANDS OF EXTREMISTS, HAS SET OFF WHAT APPEARS TO BE MAJOR GUERRILLA HUNT IN AREA, AND PRESS CLAIMS THAT 2000 GUERRILLAS ALLIED WITH ARGENTINE ERP ARE TRAINING IN ARGENTINA TO INVADE CHILE. SECURITY FORCES IN TALCA PROVINCE HAVE ROUNDED UP SIZABLE NUMBERS OF SUSPECTS, BUT GOC IS RELEASING VERY LITTLE NEWS. IN MEANTIME, SECURITY FORCES IN ANTOFAGASTA ARRESTED 17 COMMUNISTS CHARGED WITH DISTRIBUTING PAMPHLETS AND PAINTING ANTI-GOC SLOGANS ON WALLS. BOTH GOC AND PRESS HAVE USED INCIDENTS TO WARN THAT DANGER FROM MARXISM IS NOT OVER AND THAT SECURITY MEASURES ARE STILL NEEDED. END SUMMARY.

2. CURRENT UPSURGE OF STORIES ABOUT GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IN TALCA PROVINCE AND NEIGHBORING ARGENTINA BEGAN JUNE 7, WITH REPORT OF FINDING OF BODY OF ARMY CAPTAIN AND INTELLIGENCE OFFICER OSVALDO HAYDE GOYCOOLEA IN HIS OWN CAR IN LONELY SPOT NEAR CITY OF TALCA. HAYDE HAD BEEN SHOT IN HEAD WITH OWN PISTOL. AUTHORITIES IN TALCA IMMEDIATELY BLAMED EXTREMISTS AND LAUNCHED HUNT FOR KILLERS. INTENDENTE (GOVERNOR) OF TALCA PROVINCE TRIED TO LAY TO REST SUSPICION OF SUICIDE WITH STATEMENT: QUOTE CAPT. HAYDE WAS ASSASSINATED BY EXTREMISTS AND ANY OTHER VERSION OF THE MATTER IS ONLY SPECULATION UNQUOTE. HAYDE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATING ARMS SMUGGLING  
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FROM ARGENTINA.

3. BY JUNE 12 THERE WERE REPORTS THAT 14 EXTREMISTS CARRYING "FOREIGN" WEAPONS HAD BEEN CAPTURED IN TALCA PROVINCE. OFFICIAL SOURCES IN SANTIAGO WERE QUOTED AS STATING THAT THE EXTREMISTS CAME FROM ARGENTINA THROUGH PEHUENCHE PASS. ANOTHER GROUP OF EXTREMISTS ALSO WAS REPORTEDLY BEING SOUGHT IN TALCA PROVINCE, BUT INTENDENTE OF TALCA DENIED THAT A SPECIFIC SECOND GROUP WAS BEING SOUGHT AND SAID THAT "ALL ANTISOCIAL ELEMENTS" WERE BEING INVESTIGATED. THERE WERE REPORTS IN THE PRESS THAT SOME 50 EXTREMISTS HAD BEEN CAPTURED, BUT BOTH TALCA AND SANTIAGO AUTHORITIES REFUSED TO GIVE DETAILED INFORMATION.

4. ON JUNE 13 OFFICIAL SOURCES TOLD PRESS THAT MORE THAN 2000 EXTREMISTS OF MOVEMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR) AND OTHER MARXIST GROUPS WERE TRAINING IN TUCUMAN AREA OF ARGENTINA FOR CLANDESTINE ACTIVITY IN CHILE. ONE OF THE LEADERS WAS SAID TO BE DAGOBERTO PEREZ, A MIR LEADER WHO MIR AND OTHER ANTI-GOC GROUPS REPORTEDLY HAD CLAIMED WAS AMONG THOSE WHO HAD DISAPPEARED IN SINISTER CIRCUMSTANCES, PRESUMABLY IN HANDS OF GOC SECURITY FORCES. THE MIR WAS REPORTED TO BE WORKING IN COOPERATION WITH ARGENTINE ERP.

5. STORY CONTINUED TOGATHER MOMENTUM, AND JUNE 16 PRESS CARRIED CABLE AGENCY REPORTS FROM MENDOZA (ARGENTINA) WHICH FED BACK RUMORS SUPPOSEDLY REACHING ARGENTINA FROM CHILE, AS WELL AS REPORTS FROM ARGENTINE SOURCES CLAIMING THAT EXTREMISTS INFILTRATING ACROSS ANDES PASSES HAD CLASHED WITH CHILEAN CARABINEROS, AND THAT CHILEANS HAD EXECUTED FIVE WHO WERE CAPTURED.

6. IN REACTION TO STORY FROM ARGENTINA, GOC SPOKESMAN LATE JUNE 16 SAID THAT THERE WAS AN OUTBREAK OF GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IN TALCA PROVINCE, BUT DENIED STORIES OF ARMED CLASHES AND EXECUTIONS.

7. WHILE TALCA STORY DOMINATED NEWS, ON JUNE 10 ANTOFAGASTA AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCED ARREST OF 17 COMMUNISTS WHO WERE ALLEGED TO HAVE PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED ANTI-GOC PAMPHLETS AND TO HAVE PAINTED ANTI-JUNTA SLOGANS ON WALL OF A SCHOOL.

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8. EDITORIALS IN LEADING NEWSPAPERS "EL MERCURIO" AND "LA TERCERA" CITED TALCA AND ANTOFAGASTA STORIES AS PROOF THAT DANGER FROM EXTREMISTS IS NOT OVER AND CALLED ON CHILEANS TO BE CALM BUT ALERT.

9. COMMENT: WE FIND IT DIFFICULT AT THIS STAGE FULLY TO ASSESS THESE DEVELOPMENTS. IT IS STILL NOT CLEAR HOW CAPTAIN HAYDE DIED; WHAT IS ACTUAL EXTENT OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

AND OPERATIONS IN TALCA AREA; AND PRECISELY HOW ACTIVE  
CONNECTIONS MAY CURRENTLY BE BETWEEN TERRORISTS IN CHILE  
AND ARGENTINE ERP. GOC SEEMS SOMEWHAT AMBIVALENT IN WAY IT IS  
HANDLING MATTER. ON THE ONE HAND, IT SEEMS TO BE EXPLOITING  
IT TO WARN COUNTRY THAT LEFTIST TERRORISM REMAINS A MENACE.  
KN THE OTHER, IT IS AVOIDING ALARMIST, SENSATIONAL RESPONSE  
COMPARABLE TO THAT WHICH OCCURRED WHEN LEADING MIR TERRORISTS  
WERE HUNTED DOWN IN SANTIAGO, IN OCTOBER 1974. DIFFERENCE  
MAY REFLECT GREATER SELF-CONFIDENCE ON GOVERNMENT'S PART,  
OR IT MAY BE THAT GOVERNMENT IS WAITING FOR ADDITIONAL  
EVIDENCE BEFORE IT MOVES IN MORE STRONGLY.  
POPPER

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## Message Attributes

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